

5     **SLOT FORMAT AND METHOD FOR INCREASING RANDOM ACCESS  
          OPPORTUNITIES IN A WIRELESS COMMUNICATION SYSTEM**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

10    A communication system (200) wherein time slots are divided into subslots by  
dividing the time slots at least in frequency. These subslots are used to efficiently  
transmit small amounts of data. For wide bandwidth signals, dividing time slots  
in frequency is more efficient than dividing time slots only in time because of the  
fixed overhead per time slot needed for propagation delays and time  
15    synchronization. The division of time slots into subslots can reduce the  
probability of collisions of random access transmissions by providing more  
random access opportunities. In an alternate embodiment, communication units  
(210) making random access transmissions transmit in multiple subslots of time  
slots to increase the probability that at least one transmission will not experience a  
20    collision.

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